

ment. A year later the Powers cancelled the Capitulations and Egypt entered the League as an independent state.

Our second reaction to Italian hostility was an attempt to end the quarrel, not only for the sake of an historic friendship, but because our abiding interest was peace. Though Abyssinia was a big morsel, the Italian Empire still made a poor show beside the vast possessions of England and France, and the Duce's longing to dominate the Mediterranean was unconcealed. As an advocate of revision his thoughts turned to the other great revisionist Power beyond the Alps, but he realized that exclusive reliance on Berlin would limit the freedom of manoeuvre which was the tradition of Italian policy. A speech at Milan in November 1936 held out a olive Branch to England, who responded by removing the British Legation from Addis Ababa. It was not formal recognition, but it looked like the first step.

Before the Abyssinian dispute was liquidated a new apple of discord ripened with General Franco's rebellion in July 1936. A French proposal for a non-intervention agreement was accepted by the British Government, with the dual object of allowing Spain to settle her own problems and of preventing the extension of the war. The latter aim was achieved, but the former completely failed. British policy was neutral in intention but not in effect, for other Powers failed to play the game. Franco was officially recognized by the two Dictators, who loudly denounced the Bolshevik menace in the Mediterranean and declared that their *protege* must win. Troops were poured into Spain, and at one time Mussolini confessed to having 40,000 Italian soldiers on the spot. In the first autumn of the war Madrid was saved by the arrival of the volunteers from many countries known as the

International
Brigade, and Russia began to supply munitions
and food ;
but the Madrid-Valencia Government received
only a small
fraction of the foreign help which rendered
possible the
victory of the rebels. Though we continued to
recognize the
Republican Government till its final surrender,
we forbade
the sale of munitions to either side, contrary to
the usual
practice of allowing a recognized Government to
buy them
wherever it can. Any such support, it was
explained, would
be followed by increased support to Franco from
the other side,
and would be incompatible with non-
intervention. This
decision was passionately denounced by the
Opposition as an
unneutral act, inspired by an unavowed desire
that Franco